



A ROTARY PROJECT FOR TERMINALLY ILL ADULTS

- ❖ As we all know, the tragedy of a terminal illness puts emotional, physical, and financial strains on the family. There are hardly any resources left for the extras, let alone time for those special moments to say goodbye. The MY WISH Project is a way to make a difference in the lives of terminally ill adult patients in low-income households. This project was officially launched in 2008 with contributions from Rotary, government social service funds, corporate sponsors, charity organizations, and members of the public. With this fund, we have been able to help terminally ill adults bring to reality the wishes that can lift their spirits and ease the turmoil of dying. Our hope is that we can bring comfort to the patient by letting him or her know that they can leave behind a final beautiful memory which their family can remember them by.
- ❖ Now, three years later, how much has the MY WISH Project grown? To date, we have received a total of 66 applications that have been submitted primarily from hospices such as HCA Hospice, National University Hospital, Singapore Cancer Society and Agape Methodist Hospice. A very high rate of MY WISH beneficiaries are diagnosed with cancer and have less than 8 months to live. These patients are not all old and elderly – many have young children or teenage dependents and the hardship comes in knowing that they, as parents, will not be able to witness their offspring reach adulthood. The MY WISH Project enables families the opportunity to spend time together doing something out of the ordinary that is fun and memorable - a momentary escape from everyday life.
- ❖ Some of the memorable wishes included a day at the beach for a family, in which the wife and mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Ambulance transport, an oxygen tank, and a couple McDonald's happy meals were all that was required to make the wish complete. In another wish, a father with heart failure wanted a family portrait to be taken at a photo studio as a remembrance gift for his son. Another father with throat cancer wished for an electric bicycle so that he can continue the family tradition of cycling with his children on weekends. And, in an example of true kindness, a single female who was diagnosed with breast cancer wished for a wheelchair not for herself but one to be given to an elderly woman who was in much greater need than she. The wishes come in all shapes and forms. What is important is that the wishes, once fulfilled, would make a positive difference in the remaining months of a patient's journey.
- ❖ The MY WISH Project is the first and only initiative of its kind in Singapore for terminally ill adults. The positive responses from participating hospitals and hospices are a constant reminder that there is a niche to be filled. We hope to sustain this project so that more wishes can be granted. There are three ways in which you can help. First, you can volunteer your time. Second, you can be involved in the planning of a fundraiser. Third, you can take part in our benefactor program or be a corporate partner. Every bit of contribution counts.

A joint community initiative by the Rotary Eclub of 3310 and the Foundation of Rotary Clubs Singapore. Visit www.rotarymvwish.weebly.com



Our beneficiary, Mr Aw, in his last family portrait with loved ones.